

Message Text

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C O R R E C T E D C O P Y (TEXT AND PARA NUMBERING)

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PINT, PGOV, PINS, BL

SUBJ: MINISTER OF INTERIOR REVEALS LEFTIST PLOT

1. IN A PRESS CONFERENCE OF JANUARY 15, MINISTER OF INTERIOR PEREDA ASBUN REVEALED DETAILS OF RECENT PLOTTING ACTIVITY INVOLVING SEVEN LEFTIST POLITICAL PARTIES. COMPONENTS OF THE ALLIANCE, CALLED THE FRENTE DEMOCRATICO DE UNIDAD NACIONAL, THE MNRI, THE MOSCOW AND PEKING-LINE COMMUNIST PARTIES, THE SOCIALIST PARTY, THE POR OF GUILLERMO LORA, THE PRIN OF JUAN LECHIN OQUENDO AND THE CHRISTIAN DEMOCRATIC PARTY. ACCORDING TO PEREDA'S STATEMENT, THE SEVEN-PARTY ALLIANCE, UNDER THE LEADERSHIP OF EXILED MNRI CHIEF HERNAN SILES ZUAZO, HAD PLANNED A COORDINATED CAMPAIGN OF AGITATION IN BOTH THE URBAN AND RURAL AREAS, WITH EMPHASIS ON THE MINES AND FACTORIES. AGITATORS INFILTRATED INTO BOLIVIA WERE TO PROVOKE A CAMPAIGN OF AGITATION AGAINST THE EXPECTED "ECONOMIC PACKAGE" OF THE GOB, PEREDA STATED, WITH THE ULTIMATE GOAL OF A GENERAL STRIKE WHICH WOULD BRING ABOUT THE OVERTHROW OF THE BANZER GOVERNMENT.

2. PEREDA INDICATED THAT, AS A RESULT OF THE MINISTRY'S
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INVESTIGATIONS, SEVENTEEN AGITATORS HAVE BEEN DETAINED IN THE

MINING AREAS, WHILE A FURTHER EIGHTEEN PERSONS WERE EXILED TO PARAGUAY. AMONG THE LATTER GROUP WERE FORMER MNR LABOR LEADERS SINFOROSO CABRERA (MINEWORKERS) AND GUILLERMO PATON (DRIVERS) AS WELL AS EX-PRESIDENT SILES ZUAZO'S FORMER PRIVATE SECRETARY, MARIO ALARCON LAHORE, PRIN LEADER MARIO CARRASCO MARIN AND PDC FIGURE JORGE REYES VILLA. PEREDA ALSO ANNOUNCED THAT THE GOB IS SEEKING TO ESTABLISH THE WHEREABOUTS OF COLS. MIGUEL AYOROA AND JOSE PATINO AYOROA, AS WELL AS OF JUAN PEREIRA FIORILO, EX-SUB-SECRETARY OF THE MINISTRY OF INDUSTRY AND COMMERCE, AND SUPPOSED AUTHOR OF A DOCUMENT ISSEED UNDER AYOROA'S NAME ON JANUARY 5, 1975. HOWEVER, PEREDA ADDED THAT HIS MINISTRY HAS NO CONCRETE PROOF AS YET LINKING AYOROA AND PATINO WITH THE ABOVE-DESCRIBED COUP PLOT.

COMMENT: THE STATEMENTS OF THE MINISTER OF INTERIOR DO NOT REVEAL THE EXTENT OF THE FERMENT TAKING PLACE AMONG BOLIVIAN POLITICAL GROUPS IN AND OUT OF THE COUNTRY. INFORMATION RECEIVED BY THE EMBASSY INDICATES THAT THE MAJOR CENTRIST PARTIES HAVE REACHED AN UNDERSTANDING WITH THE LEFTIST GROUPS MENTIONED BY THE INTERIOR MINISTER WHEREBY ALL WOULD SUPPORT A COUP BY A MILITARY FIGURE, PROVIDED THAT INDIVIDUAL WOULD HAVE AGREED TO CALL FOR NATION-WIDE ELECTIONS WITHIN A CERTAIN TIME PERIOD. IT IS ALSO APPARENT THAT COLONELS PATINO AYOROA AND AYOROA MONTANO ARE BOTH ACCEPTABLE TO THE CIVILIAN PARTIES TO PLAY THIS ROLE. WE HAVE BEEN TOLD BY RELIABLE SOURCES THAT PATINO AND SILES ZUAZO MET AT LEAST TWICE AND POSSIBLY THREE TIMES IN PAST MONTH. WE HAVE ALSO BEEN TOLD THAT SILEX ZUAZO CONTACTED SEVERAL OTHER POLITICAL GROUPS WHILE HE WAS IN BOLIVIA CLANDESTINELY, AND THIS IS REFLECTED IN RECENT COMMENTS TO EMBOFFS CENTER-RIGHT POLITICIANS SUGGESTING THAT SILES IS NOT THE EXTREMIST HE IS ACCUSED OF BEING AND MAY BE AN ACCEPTABLE POLITICAL COMPANION.

3. THE PRESENT REPRESSIVE TACTICS OF THE GOB, ESPECIALLY IN THE LABOR AREA, PROBABLY PLAY INTO THE HANDS OF THE OPPOSITION IN THE SENSE OF ENCOURAGING THEM TO CONTINUE TO CONCENTRATE ON OUSTING BANZER RATHER THAN TO GET INTO THE DIVISIVE AREA OF WHO WILL SUCCEED THE "CARETAKER". NEVERTHELESS, IT IS UNLIKELY THAT THE VERY DIVERSE POLITICAL OPPOSITION WILL BE ABLE TO AGREE ON TIMING, I.E., THE RIGHT OPPORTUNITY, FOR MOVING AGAINST THE BANZER REGIME IN THE NEAR FUTURE. IN THAT REGARD, THE PRESIDENT'S
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DECISION TO CANCEL THE SO-CALLED ECONOMIC MEASURES (OR AT LEAST POSTPONE THEM INDEFINITELY) WAS POLITICALLY ASTUTE IN THAT IT SNATCHED FROM THE OPPOSITION THE KIND OF OPPORTUNITY THE LATTER WOULD HAVE TO TRY A "GOLPE".
STEDMAN

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